

THE GUNS THAT WILL DEFEND US

The sum total of the estimates for fortifications at this city and at Pearl Harbor is much over \$3,000,000 and in all probability, this amount, and even more, will be expended in building and equipping the forts on the Island of Oahu within the next three years. Congress, in specific appropriations, has placed money amounting to \$350,000 in the hand of the War Department for the sites and the work of battery construction here, while the sum of \$3,254,244 has been recommended for work which will be paid for out of general funds that are to be expended in accordance with the directions of the Chief of Ordnance and the Chief of Engineers.

In the report of the National Coast-Defense Board, appointed by President Roosevelt, and commonly known as the Taft Board, on account of the fact that William H. Taft, Secretary of War, is president of the organization, the recommendations for the defense of Hawaii are given and are published, for the first time in Honolulu, today.

For the defense of Honolulu and Pearl Harbor, the following armament is recommended: Six 12-inch rifles, four 6-inch rifles, and sixteen 12-inch mortars. With batteries consisting of such strength the city of Honolulu will be strong in front.

When it comes down to terms of cost the figures appear even higher than would be expected. For the cost of guns, carriages and emplacements, the enormous sum of \$2,544,390 is recommended, and at least this sum is practically sure to be used for the work.

The protection of the city by submarine mines is by no means left out. The Taft Board recommends that the War Department set aside the sum of \$295,260 from its general appropriation for this purpose. Storehouses, special electric apparatus, and a company of men skilled in the handling of submarine apparatus, will be needed in this connection.

Another important matter is that of power plants. The heavy guns which are now in use need electricity. In order to handle them with the utmost ease powerful motors must be used and to drive these motors generating plants must be erected. The Taft Board, for this purpose, has recommended the expenditure of \$68,938. This money is to be used for two plants, one for the central station and the other as a reserve, which may be available in case the central plant is disabled, through accident or through the fire of an enemy, in time of war. Each of the plants will cost, according to the estimate, \$34,469.

For searchlights, to be used for the locating of the enemy's fleet during a night attack, the Board advises an appropriation of \$95,000. With an equipment warranted by the expenditure of so large a sum, it is ensured that a hostile fleet would be unable to come within striking distance of the city of Honolulu, without being saluted with a hail of projectiles, which would render it powerless.

There is one more important estimate which has been recommended by the Taft Board and which is practically the brains of the entire equipment to be placed here. That is what is known as "fire control." This does not mean the equipment of engines to put out fires which might be caused by accident or otherwise. It is the building and equipment of stations, through which the fire of the batteries on the island may be directed simultaneously or otherwise at a given mark.

For this purpose stations, where men may be placed to give the exact locations of attacking vessels to the officer in charge of the batteries, telephones and other needed communication, as well as the apparatus needed to find ranges, is required. For instance, a mortar battery may be placed behind Diamond Head, where the gunners can not see the vessels of the enemy as they approach from the sea. That they may know the exact location and range of the enemy, men may be stationed at Koko Head and from there, by means of telephone or telegraph, may direct the aim.

In connection with the estimate of the Taft Board it is interesting to note the fact that, with the exception of the eastern entrance to Long Island, the entrance to Chesapeake Bay, Puget Sound and Manila, the fortifications at this city and Pearl Harbor are thought to need the largest appropriation. The largest recommendation of all is for Manila, which is placed at \$6,168,819. Next comes that for Chesapeake Bay with \$6,102,871. Puget Sound and Long Island follow with a little over \$5,000,000 apiece and then comes Honolulu, with its expense bill set at \$3,254,244. This is closely followed by San Francisco with \$3,119,242.

The 12-inch guns which are referred to, according to the Taft report, cost for gun steel, \$43,465 apiece. Gun nickel steel for them costs \$61,000, the carriages are worth \$52,000 and the general average of emplacement work costs \$180,000. The guns can be fired four times within two minutes and thirteen seconds.

For the 12-inch mortars, of which sixteen are recommended for use in this island, \$7000 is needed for the gun steel, \$12,000 for each carriage and \$120,000 for the emplacement work on each battery of eight guns.

In speaking of the use for which the various guns are intended the report says:

"The Board is of the opinion:

"1.—That the gun defense of a port of the first importance should consist of guns of not less than 12-inch caliber, 12-inch mortars, and suitable rapid fire guns for the defense of the mine fields.

"2.—That 10-inch guns are sufficient to cover channels liable only to cruiser attack.

"3.—That 6-inch guns should be used for the protection of places subject to naval raids and the special case of mine fields at distant ranges.

"4.—That 3-inch guns be used for the protection of mine fields at ordinary ranges."

The 12-inch guns will have a range of 13,730 yards, at which they will be able to penetrate 7-inch Krupp armor. They will penetrate 12-inch armor, of the same type, at a distance of 8700 yards. The latest 12-inch gun has an initial velocity of 2550 feet per second and a muzzle energy of 47,299 foot-tons.

It is recommended in the report that the defenses of the entrance to Chesapeake Bay, eastern entrance to Long Island Sound, Puget Sound, Subig Bay, Guantanamo and the entrance to Manila Bay, be the first points to be fortified, and that the other points mentioned, both on the mainland and in the insular possessions, follow. Many of these projects are now far advanced.

In speaking of this Territory the report says:

"Naval bases and coaling stations must be protected by fortifications, and in addition, Manila, Honolulu and San Juan are of sufficient military importance to deserve adequate defense."

CONGRESSMEN ARE TRYING TO PLACE THEMSELVES

(Mail Special to the Advertiser.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 11.—Congress is drifting, has been drifting, will drift right up to the holiday season. "Uncle Joe" Cannon is doing all the work for the House of Representatives. The members have been "visiting" him during the last ten days, to pester him about the committees they want. The aged and venerable man has the earache, the members have talked at him so much and so hard.

But he can't help it. The members are within their rights. He can't remember one-tenth of all they say to Mr. Busbey, and his parliamentary clerk, Mr. Hinds, have been noted all that these Republican members have asked for. But he must smile and be pleasant while the Republicans tell the story over again and while Congress waits for its committees, for without its committees it can not do business.

Over in the Senate Senator Hale, of Maine, is doing most of the work. He is virtually speaker at that end of the Capitol for a while. His title, however, is not speaker but chairman of the committee on committees. However, he is the man who puts the pegs in their holes, which is Speaker Cannon's way of describing the making of committees. The Senate always does things a little differently than the House. It names a committee to make up the committees, but of course, the chairman is the big man on the committee and he has his way about a lot of things when it comes to a show-down. Some time the present week the Senate committees will probably be named and a little legislation may be expected from that body before its adjournment next week. The Democrats have already chosen their men for the minority vacancies and Senator Hale's committee will report to the Republican caucus this week. The caucus will approve as a matter of formality

and then the Senate will approve what the caucus has done.

About next Saturday night Speaker Cannon is expected to cut the visiting short and put a poultice on his ears. This means he will be ready actually to make up the sixty-odd committees under his jurisdiction. The members have been talking to him morning, noon and night for two weeks and he is tired out. But by Saturday night at the latest he will call his clerks to meet him at his residence on Vermont avenue. They will take the two books along and for about twenty hours the Speaker's front door will be shut to all callers. He is likely to work all during Sunday. In fact the bulk of the work of putting the names down in the committee lists will probably be done Sunday.

That has been the case heretofore, when Mr. Cannon has had to make up committees for the House. He has had the task on his hands twice before this and each time he made up the lists on Sunday. Then he lets the work "dry out" for a few days and just before the holiday adjournment makes the lists public.

Congress is giving a little attention to the financial question. A Banking and Currency committee has been named in the House, with Representative Fowler, as chairman and it has held a meeting or two to organize and to get into shape for the consideration of numerous plans which have been offered for curing financial ills. It is a foregone conclusion, however, that the law, as finally passed, will be framed in the Senate. Chairman Fowler is an asset currency man and he has named as a subcommittee with himself as chairman men who will likely acquiesce in what he recommends. The strong men of the committee, at least the strong men in the estimation of the House, such as Representatives Theodore Burton of Ohio, John W. Weeks of Massachusetts, a leading banker of Boston, and Llewellyn Powers of Maine, have been left off the subcommittee entirely. Their voices will be heard when the bill gets into committee but probably they will be unable to mould a measure that can command the support of the conservative forces in the Senate and the House.

Senator Aldrich has been working on currency legislation ever since he arrived in Washington. He has conferred extensively with the members of his committee on Finance and with other Senators. He has also made two visits to the White House, the last time of an evening in company with Senator Crane of Massachusetts. The President asked both of them to come and thereby gave proof of his desire for harmony within the Republican party during the session. Senator Aldrich had not been to the White House for many months and it did not seem likely that he would go there right away, as his sentiments toward the President are far from cordial.

The meeting between the two men, however, was frank and cordial. The President gave no indication of a wish to dominate Congress in the matter of financial legislation. He is interested, of course, that Congress shall pass some emergency currency law, but he surprised Senators Aldrich and Crane by announcing that he intended to keep hands off and leave Senate and House to work out the problem according to their own best judgment. Of course, the President may change his mind after a while, as he generally reserves the right to do when Congress is not coming up to the expectations of the country, but it looks at present as though the Congress would be allowed to go it alone in framing a currency bill.

It may be that the President will get back to harmonious relations with Congress during the present session. Possibly Congress would not be averse to such a condition of things. Its leaders have been more or less at odds with the President ever since he entered the White House. Every winter there has been some legislation which the President wanted to get through and which Congress would enact only reluctantly and under pressure from the White House.

As far as the signs go, no program for legislation has been made up at the White House this year. The President's recommendations for more enactments against corporations, it is understood, will not be passed at this session, and the legislation will be passed over for his successor in office to handle. A modification of the Sherman anti-trust law is being drafted at the Department of Justice by the Assistant to the Attorney General, Mr. Purdy. Some think the President will likely start a campaign for its enactment into law before this session closes.

But Congress is in no mood for that kind of legislation and, with the present spirit, neither Senate nor House could be pushed very hard. The Republicans want to do nothing to jeopardize their chances in the Presidential campaign. The corporations are already in an ugly mood because of what the administration has done to them and because of the current depression. They will be let alone for a while, if the old campaign managers can have their way.

Secretary of the Treasury Cortelyou has contributed toward a better feeling in Senate and House by curtailing the issue of bonds and Treasury certificates. The criticism of his course was very strong in the Senate, where the older men did not hesitate to pronounce his action in issuing certificates illegal. Now he has curtailed the issue of Panama Canal bonds to \$25,000,000, one-half of the sum originally announced, and has curtailed the issue of Treasury certificates from \$100,000,000 to \$15,000,000. While the legality or illegality of the issue is just as much involved in the \$15,000,000, Congressmen are able to accept it with better face. No one, of course, intends to test the legality of the issue, but a great popular debate is pending on the question and the Republican orators will have to defend the action of the administration.

Probably the fact that the Secretary was willing to flood the country with \$150,000,000 worth of securities, two-thirds of which would circulate as money and would increase the total amount of available currency to that extent, had its sentimental effect for good. It helped discourage hoarding. Several big bank failures during the past week have increased the apprehensions in official Washington about the currency famine. Kansas City, Pittsburg and San Francisco have contributed to the list of disasters. There is a feeling, however, that no legislation Congress can enact will help the current situation and that what is done must be done for the purpose of guarding against future troubles. The Senate expects to have a bill ready for consideration some time in January. It will be prepared by Senator Aldrich and members of the Finance Committee.

CHRISTMAS

A Sheaf of Honolulu Verse

PEACE ON EARTH. A. C. D.

Far away through all the ages
Comes that clarion call again—
Peace on Earth—good will to men!
And the old Earth turns and listens in her pain.
Listens in her anguish and her pain
To the sweet refrain.

In the radiance of that morning
Long ago—long ago—
When the angels told the story
To the tired ones below
And the Earth was eased of pain,
Still we listen for that dear old strain
Through the ages singing yet again
Peace on Earth—good will to men!

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM. BY EDWARD INGHAM.

A star of old in grandeur shone
Upon Christ's natal day,
And shed its heavenly radiance on
The manger where He lay.

It led the wise men to the scene;
With costly gifts they came,
And homage paid the babe serene,
While angels sang His fame.

In fear and envy Herod sought
The infant King to slay;
His soldiers' cruel slaughter wrought;
The guileless babes their prey.

But God his holy child did guard
'Gainst Herod's dark design;
And to angelic watch and ward
The sacred trust consign.

And when at length, with no lament,
The tyrant's course was run,
The Father into Egypt sent
And called His royal son.

With honor, His appointed place
To fill, that son did aim;
And sought, by works of truth and grace
To praise His Father's name.

And when his earthly work was done,
His blood then paid the price
Of man's redemption—love had won
Through perfect sacrifice.

So now He lives and reigns supreme
In heaven's brightest sphere;
His eyes, like stars, in beauty beam
Through love's pure atmosphere.

But still for us with light sublime
The Star of Bethlehem shines;
Its memory sweet at Christmas time,
Each heart to Him inclines.

Still, as of old, its bright rays guide,
And hearts true homage pay
To God's dear son, once crucified,
To take man's guilt away.

THE CHRISTMAS BELLS. BY MARY H. KROUT.

The chimes ring through the silent air,—
"Good will, good will, good will;
Let evil through the whole earth cease,
Let kindness prevail, and peace,
And hatred's tongues of strife be still."

Far out across the city's roofs
The sweet strain floats from spire to spire
Blent with the organ's swelling psalm,
The voice of chanting priest and choir.

A little child wakes out of sleep,
The fire upon the hearth burns low,
She sighs to hear the cruel winds
That bring the bitter frost and snow.

Her shrunken face is gaunt and pale,
Her baby hands with toil are seamed;
She whispers: "'Tis the Christmas bells,—
I heard them even while I dreamed.

"But happy children hear them not,
In their white beds so sound they sleep,—
Those who are never tired and who
For pain and hunger never weep.

"And 'tis to them the Christ-child comes,
To them who will not wait to see
The gifts he brings for all tonight,—
I wonder, will he think of me?

"Perhaps he can not find me here,
Or will not climb the crooked stair
So dark and steep, and yet they say
Those whom He loves are everywhere."

Those whom He loves are everywhere,
And while she slept again there came
One with a blessing who fears not
To seek the haunts of want and shame.

hensions in official Washington about the currency famine. Kansas City, Pittsburg and San Francisco have contributed to the list of disasters. There is a feeling, however, that no legislation Congress can enact will help the current situation and that what is done must be done for the purpose of guarding against future troubles. The Senate expects to have a bill ready for consideration some time in January. It will be prepared by Senator Aldrich and members of the Finance Committee.

ERNEST G. WALKER.

President Pinkham of the Board of Health, owing to his overworked condition from the crisis of the past few days, remained at his rooms yesterday, directing the board's affairs from there.

JAP COMBINE IN FISHING STUFFS

The local Japanese dealers in suji, the fisherman's substitute for the more expensive catgut, have combined to, in a measure, restrict the sale of the article to their countrymen. A few weeks ago two strands of suji could have been purchased at Japanese stores for five cents. Today a white man can not obtain any suji unless he purchases at least half a dollar's worth.

The same condition of affairs exists regarding the sale of bamboo poles. Some of the Japanese dealers refuse to supply other than Japanese fishermen and those who accommodate a Hawaii.

CHRISTMAS BELLS. T. W. G.

Ring out, ring out, ye Christmas bells,
While on the breeze your music swells;
Ring out your gladness and your mirth,
Peal it o'er ocean and o'er earth;
From zone to zone, from clime to clime,
Ring out your ever welcome chime:
Where winter holds the world in snow
Loud let your joyous measures flow;
Ring o'er the wild and barren fells,
Thro' leafless glens, and gloomy dells;
Thro' woods that mourn bereft and bare
The feathered songsters of the air;
Ring o'er the bleak and wasted heath,
Where eddying gusts fantastic wreath
The myriad snowflakes falling round
And mantling o'er the sullen ground;
Peal o'er the moorlands drear and wide,
Peal up the rugged mountain side,
Where, dashing past the shaggy wood,
The roaring torrents toss their flood,
Fling to the wind the foamy mane,
And spill their raging o'er the plain.
In other lands, in climes more fair,
Where summer constant holds the air,
And constant decks the smiling plain
With flowers and fruits and waving grain,
Chime, chime o'er all those favored lands,
Thro' bosky dells, o'er golden strands;
Ring up the mountains giddy height
Where rainbow visions strong invite;
Peal o'er those deeps of purple sea
Your ever blessed minstrelsy;
For sweeter far than woodland notes
The clangor of your iron throats,
Reverberating thro' the sphere
To grace the advent of each year.
Where wild woods wave, and waters roll,
Chime, chime again, from pole to pole;
To ev'ry tribe, to ev'ry nation,
Peal out your lordly exaltation!

Ring, ring again ye Christmas bells,
Ring out the truth your message tells;
Peal thro' the crowded haunts of men,
A palace here, and there a den—
Ring thro' the noisome city streets,
Where Luxury with Squalor meets;
And in the mansions of the rich,
Where Fortune smiles on ev'ry wish;
And in the hovels of the poor,
That scarce may boast a shelt'ring door;
Bid man his fallen brother raise,
Point him to brighter, better ways;
Teach wealth that to relieve distress
Invites to blessing and to bless;
And teach the Powerful and the Great,
Who pride them on their high estate,
Affliction sunk in dire distress
May once have borne as hant a crest,
Chime in those wards where helpless wait,
Poor victims of a mournful fate,
The old, the young, the humble poor,
Their lives as hopeless as obscure;
To them thy sympathies impart,
And ring thy gladness in each heart,
While pallid cheek and sunken eye
Again take on Hope's lively.

Ring thro' "the prison's grim confine"
"Where guilt and poor misfortune pine,"
And in those hearts o'erprone to sin
Infuse thy blessed Anodyne;
Bid Love assert his sov'reign reign,
And Pity lend her melting strain,
And Justice bend a kindly eye
While Mercy pleads for Misery.

Ring out! Ring out! O Christmas bells
How sweet your lordly poem swells;
Ring, ring your anthem ever new,
Clang out the False, ring in the True;
Peal, peal "glad tidings of great joy,"
The golden hope without alloy,
The "peace on earth" God's blessed heaven,
The Christian's deathless hope of heaven.

*Robert Burns.

CHRISTMAS IS HERE. ANNA M. PARIS.

With merry bells ring out the chime,
For we have caught the thief old Time;
We'll lary him with song and rhyme
On Christmas Day.

Christmas is here!
And dull-eyed Care with her grim face
To Nick, the jovial saint gives place;
She speeds away with scanty grace
On Christmas Day.

Christmas is here!
From Punahou a greeting new—
Yet ever old—I send to you,
A Merry Xmas from the blue
Of tropic skies.

May you of love on this glad day
Have a rich store—but add I pray,
Aloha nui from Hawaii and—
It never dies!

white man retail a very inferior article.

The reason for this action on the part of the Japanese dealers is said to be jealousy of the haole fishermen, the Japanese having come to regard the local fishing grounds as their exclusively, notwithstanding a law which prohibits aliens from catching fish within the three-mile limit.

WHY SUFFER FROM RHEUMATISM?

Do you know that rheumatic pains can be relieved? If you doubt this just try one application of Chamberlain's Pain Balm. It will give you relief from pain and will make rest and sleep possible. For sale by all dealers. Benson, Smith & Co., Ltd., agents for Hawaii.